

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 051500Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4071

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, SG, IR

SUBJ: EMPRESS OF IRAN PAYS SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SENEGAL

REF: (A) TEHRAN 10908, (B) STATE 40303, (C) DAKAR 0445

1. SUMMARY: DURING FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO SENEGAL, EMPRESS FARAH PAHLAVI PARTICIPATED IN CEREMONY LAUNCHING NEW INDUSTRIAL CITY WHERE IRANIAN-ASSISTED PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX WILL BE LOCATED. SHAHBANOU AND SENEGALESE WERE HIGHLY COMPATIBLE. EMPRESS MADE ELOQUENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH ECHOED PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S EMPHASIS ON CULTURAL COOPERATION AS FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE. SENEGALESE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH VISIT AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RAPIDLY EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH IRAN. SENGHOR WILL REPAY VISIT IN LATE APRIL. END SUMMARY

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2. EMPRESS FARAH PAHLAVI OF IRAN PAID FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT

TO SENEGAL FEB 25-29, ACCOMPANIED BY PREMIER ABBAS HOVEYDA AND EMPRESS' MOTHER (WHO HAD ALREADY VISITED SENEGAL). DR MANOUTCHEHR EGHBAL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY, WHO ARRIVED FOUR DAYS BEFORE EMPRESS, ALSO JOINED PARTY. EMPRESS' VISIT FOLLOWED OFFICIAL TRIP IN JANUARY BY SHAH'S SISTER, PRINCESS ASHRAF (REFTEL).

3. HIGHLIGHT WAS LAYING OF FIRST STONE OF NEW CITY (NEAR CAYAR) NAMED KEUR FARAH PAHLAVI, WHICH WILL HAVE PROJECTED POPULATION OF 200,000 AND BE SITE OF PORT, REFINERY AND PHOSPHATE MINE CONSTRUCTED WITH IRANIAN ASSISTANCE. VISIT OCCASIONED MEETING OF SENEGALO-IRANIAN MIXED COMMISSION AND OTHER TALKS WITH GOS OFFICIALS. (STATUS OF COOPERATION ON PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT IN WAKE OF VISIT REPORTED SEPTTEL). EMPRESS ALSO BECAME FIRST WOMAN TO RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR, VISITED SENEGAL'S SOUTHERN CASAMANCE REGION, TOURED HISTORIC GOREE ISLAND AND WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT NUMEROUS STATE FUNCTIONS.

4. REFLECTING SPECIAL IMPORTANCE SENEGAL ATTACHES TO ITS EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH IRAN (DAKAR A-140), GOS EXTENDED ELABORATE WELCOME TO EMPRESS. LOCAL MEDIA DEPICTED HER AS DEEPLY MOVED BY WARMTH OF SENEGALESE HOSPITALITY AND PORTRAYED MASSES OF SENEGALESE AS CAPTIVATED BY SHAHBANOU'S "SILKEN SMILE." FRONT-PAGE EDITORIALS FOR FIVE SUCCESSIVE DAYS EXTOLLED SENGALO-IRANIAN FRIENDSHIP AS MODEL OF THIRD-WORLD COOPERATION, AND EXPLAINED THAT NO COMMUNIQUE WAS NECESSARY AS THIS WAS "HOURNEY OF THE HEART." EMPRESS' CABLE OF THANKS TO SENGHOR SPOKE OF "MAGNIFICENT HOSPITALITY" AND "UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES."

5. MUCH OF SUCCESS WAS DUE TO SHAHBANOU'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WHICH WERE CRAFTED WITH RARE SENSITIVITY TO SENEGALESE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL VALUES. SHE EMPHASIZED THAT CULTURE WAS BASIS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL HARMONY. IRAN, SHE SAID, HAD BEEN ENRICHED BY DIVERSE CULTURAL INFLUENCES WITHOUT RENOUNCING ESSENCE OF NATIONAL CIVILIZATION OR "IRANITY." LIKEWISE, BEST FORMULA FOR DEVELOPMENT TODAY WAS TO ASSIMILATE WITHOUT BEING ASSIMILATED. "DEEPLY HUMANISTIC NATIONAL CULTURE" OF SENEGAL AND BLACK HERITAGE REPRESENTED BY "NEGRITUDE" THUS HAD IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AS AFRICA FACES MODERN ECONOMIC

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REALITIES. ACCORDING TO EMPRESS, SENEGAL AND IRAN HAVE COMMON MISSION TO ENRICH NATIONAL CULTURES, PROMOTE CULTURAL DIALOGUE AND CONTRIBUTE TO HARMONIOUS WORLD PATRIMONY WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WILL FACILITATE NIEO, OF WHICH SENEGALO-IRANIAN COOPERATION IS PRIME EXAMPLE. EMPRESS' REMARKS ALONG THESE LINES BEAR UNCANNY SIMILARITY TO SENGHOR'S OWN PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH; THEY WERE WIDELY PUBLICIZED AND APPLAUDED IN SENEGAL.

6. GOS DISPLAYED UNUSUAL SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS DURING EMPRESS' VISIT. OFFICIAL NOTICE DIRECTED PROPRIETORS ALONG MOTORCADE ROUTE TO PREVENT ENTRY TO PREMISES OF PERSONS FOR WHOM THEY COULD NOT VOUCH. POLICE WERE HIGHLY VISIBLE. GENDARME CALLED BACK FROM LEAVE FOR DUTY DURING VISIT TOLD EMBOFF PRECAUTIONS REFLECTED FEAR OF "CARLOS."

7. ASIDE FROM ISOLATED PRIVATE GROUSES (E.G., FROM UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL WHO CLAIMED EMPRESS "BOUGHT" HER HONORARY DEGREE), SENEGALESE WHO CAME IN CONTACT WITH SHAHBANOU FROM SENGHOR ON DOWN APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN GENUINELY CHARMED. FOREIGN MINISTRY CABINET DIRECTOR TOLD AMBASSADOR VISIT HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL IN EVERY RESPECT AND SENEGAL WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RELATIONS WITH IRAN. HE SAW CONSCIOUS IRANIAN DECISION TO EXPAND ITS INVESTMENTS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES INTO DEVELOPING WORLD AS WELL, AND SAID IRANIANS HAD CHOSEN SENEGAL. HE FELT IRANIAN RETRENCHMENT IN FACE OF UNEXPECTED BUDGET DEFICITS POSTED NO DANGER TO PROJECTS IN SENEGAL. UNUSUAL SERIES OF IRANIAN VIP VISITS CERTAINLY SUGGESTS CONTINUING DESIRE BY IRAN TO DRAW MAXIMUM PUBLIC ATTENTION TO ITS INITIATIVES IN SENEGAL. FOR HIS PART, SENGHOR WILL REPAY VISIT IN SECOND HALF OF APRIL, ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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